(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the proposed Money Laundering Bill is likely to be brought before Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEEN. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not apply in view of (a) above.

(c) The prevention of Money Laundering Bill was passed by the Lok Sabha on 02.12.1999. The Rajya Sabha has referred it to Select Committee which has submitted its report on 24.07.2000. The Finance Minister has given a notice to the Secretary General, Rajya Sabha on 14.02.2002 that the Bill as reported by the Select Committee be taken into consideration and that the Bill may be passed.

Distribution of foreign aid

5007. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are drawing up a plan to end the present system of only five States bagging the lion's share of external assistance;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a new formula has been evolved to distributed the foreign aid among the States on a fair and equitable basis and emphasis to correct regional imbalances; and

(d) by when the new plan is likely to be put in place?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (d)There is no separate formula to distribute external aid among States which is passed on to them in the form of additional central assistance (ACA). The quantum of such funds for a particular State depends upon several factors such as its ability to implement projects successfully, viability of projects etc. Govt, of India, however, encourages all States to access funds equally and fairly.

Growth rate in agricultural, banking and insurance sector

5008. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of FIN ANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that agriculture, banking and insurance have registered a negative growth during 2000-2001;

(b) if so, the sector-wise details in this regard and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have fixed any targets for these sectors; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to boost growth in agriculture?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (d) As per the Quick Estimates of National Income released by the Central Statistical Organisation, growth in the gross domestic product (GDP) at factor cost at constant (1993-94) prices in 2000-01 originating in agriculture, forestry and fishing posted a decline of 0.2 per cent. Within agriculture, forestry and fishing agriculture component showed a decline of 0.4 per cent. The negative growth of 0.4 per cent in the GDP of agriculture component during the year 2000-01, has mainly been on account of decline in production of rice by 5.4 per cent, wheat by 10.0 per cent, pulses by 20.4 per cent, oilseeds by 11.2 per cent and cotton by 16.3 per cent as compared with the previous year. The growth in the GDP originating in financing, insurance, real estate and business services was 2.9 per cent. Within this sector, banking & insurance component showed a fall of 2.2 per cent. The negative growth of 2.2 per cent in banking and insurance sector during 2000-01 has mainly been on account of decline in the output of the non-banking financial institutions. Growth rate targets are not fixed annually. The Budget for 2002-03 contains a number of measures to promote growth in agriculture. These, *inter-alia,* include further decontrol and deregulation of agriculture, number of measures to step up agricultural credit through institutional channels, enhanced allocation for the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme and agriculture research and extension in particular. Besides, the Budget also lays emphasis on rural infrastructure by providing higher allocation for rural roads and a new interest subsidy scheme called Accelerated Rural Electrification Programme to promote rural electrification. These measures are expected to have a favourable impact on the agricultural sector.

Financial norms for power projects

5009. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified firming up of easier financing norms for power sector in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have redefined the guidelines for group lending to power projects;